

SIKKIM



GOVERNMENT

GAZETTE

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**GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY-CUM- PCCF & CWLW
FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
FOREST SECRETARIAT
DEORALI- 737-102, GANGTOK**

No. 05/PCCF/PS/FED

Date: 12/05/2020

NOTIFICATION

In response to the problems faced by the farmers and other inhabitants in the buffer zone of Reserved Forests, Protected Areas and other forest areas, the Government is convinced to notify to control the population of wild animals to reduce the human-animal conflict cases under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (Sec 11) Chapter III. As per powers so delegated to the Chief Wildlife Warden under the provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to exercise any powers to control human-animal conflict with the objective to see that main objective of the Act is not defeated.

Sikkim has 82.317% area under the administrative control of Forest Department and 30.77% is under Protected Area Network. The forest cover has also increased considerably during past two decades, including tree cover in private holdings. And now, wild animals i.e. Himalayan Black Bear, wild dog, monkey, wild boar, fox, civet cat, deer, porcupines and peacock at certain places are creating problems to the farmers and increased incidences of man-animal conflicts and crop damages have been envisaged. However concomitantly there is a severe problem on wild boars and wild dogs. Ex-gratia is being paid for damage of crop and injury to the victims, as per the Government norms. Increasing number of such cases is putting pressure on Government machinery and also leads to fund constraint.

- Reportedly, there had been a migration of a sizeable number of persons from Daramdin Constituency, West Sikkim, and people are resorting to alternative livelihood including working as labourers. The main reason for this is destruction of their cultivated crops by the wild animals particularly Wild Boars.
- As such, the affected villages in West Sikkim, with the increase in the number of cases of wild boars destroying crops over the last few years are as follows:

Sl. No.	Affected Villages
1.	Bhareng
2.	Ribdi
3.	Upper Okhrey
4.	Sapre Nagi
5.	Hattavan
6.	Upper Tarey bhir
7.	Nasa
8.	Upper Singling
9.	Dodhak
10.	Buriakhop
11.	Uttarey
12.	Heepatal
13.	Bermiok Martam
14.	Begha
15.	Hee Gaon

Further, the farmers of the above villages who have been suffering repeated crop losses due to wild boar attacks have sent grievances in written to the concerned DFOs and District Administration detailing the location of the farm, the crop damaged and the animals involved.

- As such, the culling of wild Boars will be allowed as per provision under Section 11 (b) of Chapter III of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, on pilot basis for a one year period in the above identified villages forest areas commencing from 15/05/2020.
- The culling of animals will be done only by trained Range Officers/Block Officers under the order of the CWLW and will be done by a group of staff not less than two.
- All necessary precautions for the safety of the staff and public per se must be ensured.
- A Range Officer who is not an experienced shooter can take the help of experienced marksmen from the police or use a retired armed services person authorized by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
- In this regard, the Chief Wildlife Warden may, if he is satisfied that any wild animal which became dangerous to the human life by order in writing and stating the reason thereof, permit any person or its trained staff to cull (hunt) such animals if cannot be captured, or controlled, tranquilized or translocated. The killing or wounding in good faith of any wild animals in defense of oneself or of any other person shall not be an offence.

- The farmers suffering repeated crop losses due to wild boar attacks should send written requests to the concerned DFO (Wildlife). Simultaneously such report may also be obtained from the office of concerned District Collector by the concerned Wildlife Divisions.
- The DFO (Wildlife) after due consultation with the panchayat president in gram sabha, revenue authorities and after satisfying himself of the correctness of the requests, can shoot the animals (wild boars in this case) or arrange for their shooting by forest staff as prescribed above at the earliest. In case the DFO (Wildlife) is not satisfied with the petitioners' requests, he should send his reason for not shooting the wild boar to the petitioners.
- The killed animal's meat or any body part should not be consumed or used for any other purpose. The carcass should be as per the standard protocol disposed of and reported.
- The local vet has to conduct a post mortem and collect samples of blood and tissues for further investigation.
- If the animal wounded by firing or stone or any other means, runs away and enters in their forest habitat, then it should not be chased/followed to kill. In the eventuality of any wild animal so killed as per the provisions of this notification, the recovered body parts or carcass will be Government property and will be disposed off in the manner so prescribed.
- Even, if the wild animals killed in the private holding or human habitat outside the forest, the killed animals or carcass is to be handed over to nearest forest check post or forest officials immediately with information to Head Office.
- Any wild animal killed or wounded in defense of any person shall be no offence and the property be handed over to the Department as Government property.
- All culling incidences have to be immediately reported to the DFO (Wildlife), CF (Wildlife) and CWLW.
- No wild boar should be shot on any forest land, lactating animals should not be shot and no animals should be shot in a field protected by a solar fence.
- An animal escaping into a forest during the hunt should not be chased into the forest for killing the same.
- The Wildlife Divisions will keep a database of damages due to wildlife for helping out, inter alia, in taking administrative decisions.

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